

Patuxent Wildlife Research Center

VIRGINIA - FOCUS OF WILDLIFE STUDIES BY PATUXENT WILDLIFE RESEARCH CENTER

Vital statistics

- Located in the Department of Environmental Sciences, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia
- Total budget \$325,000 (FY 2000)
- Partners include: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), National Park Service (NPS), the University of Virginia, The Nature Conservancy, and State agencies
- Patuxent personnel at Charlottesville: 1 research scientist



Benefits to Virginia

- Participation in partnership with the University of Virginia's Virginia Coast Reserve Long Term Ecological Research program
- Participation in partnerships with USFWS, The Nature Conservancy, and Virginia Game Commission on the Virginia Barrier Island Avian Alliance
- Support of graduate students at the University of Virginia
- Technical assistance on fish and wildlife conservation and habitat issues in the Eastern Shore region, Chesapeake Bay, and at the state level, especially coastal wildlife and wetlands

Examples of Current Research and Monitoring Projects

- Effects of sea level rise, marsh inundation, and impacts to waterbirds and their habitats in the mid and North Atlantic coastal region
- Landscape level analysis of breeding habitat of colonial waterbirds (1975-1999) and population changes in coastal Virginia
- Monitoring populations and habitat use of the threatened gull-billed tern in coastal Virginia
- Establishing monitoring protocols for waterbirds at Cape Cod National Seashore, with application to other coastal parks and refuges
- Evaluating movements and habitat use by laughing gulls at NPS Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge in relation to the JFK International Airport
- Restoration of Poplar Island in the Chesapeake Bay for waterbirds and fisheries resources

Regional and National Level Technical Support

- Comprehensive Conservation Plans of USFWS refuges
- Natural resource monitoring plans for NPS coastal parks and USFWS refuges
- Development of a North American Colonial Waterbird Conservation Plan (NACWCP)
- Scientific Advisory Boards of NACWCP, the Ornithological Council, and the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network.

